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Southeastern Massachusetts Health Planning and Development, Inc.

A HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY

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November 3, 1981

Lester Sutton
Region I Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
J.F.K. Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Sutton:

Southeastern Massachusetts Health Planning and Development, Inc. is the designated Health Systems Agency serving the one million residents of southeastern Massachusetts. As one of six such consumer organizations throughout the Commonwealth, we are concerned with a wide range of health status and health system issues. Among these are issues involving environmental and occupational health concerns.

We have recently been apprised on the continuing concern regarding PCBs in and around the New Bedford harbor. It is clear that the present situation represents a severe health hazard which has dangerous long term implications for the health and well being of area residents.

As an issue relating to hazardous wastes, we understand that no one agency or department of local government is responsible for the coordination of activities to address this problem. This fact, unfortunately, heightens our concerns as an agency involved with local health care issues.

At this time we wish to express our support of your actions and efforts to protect the residents of the area from this hazard. Further, we will support any efforts and activities which will focus the responsibility for dealing with hazardous wastes within a single governmental unit.

On behalf of the Southeastern Massachusetts Health Planning and Development, Inc. Board of Directors, I remain

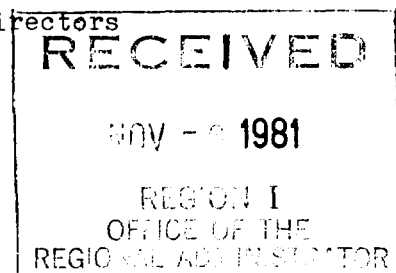
Sincerely,

Robert Sammons

Robert Sammons
President
Board of Directors

RS:ml

cc: Mayor John A. Markey
New Bedford, MA
Rep. Gerry Studds
Sen. Edward Kennedy
Sen. Paul Tsongas



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